

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of conveying a recording material, in which athe recording material is conveyed to an image recording stage in an image recording apparatus in which an image is recorded on the recording material based on print data transferred at a predetermined transfer rate, said method comprising the steps of:

starting concurrent processing of transfer of the print data and conveying of the recording material;

temporarily stopping conveying of the recording material, when a predetermined amount of the print data is not received, immediately before a process for working the recording material;

calculating, based on the predetermined transfer rate, an amount of the print data which can be transferred in a time for which the recording material is conveyed from a position at which the recording material is temporarily stopped, to an image recording position; and

restarting conveying of the recording material at a time at which an amount of print data which has not been transferred comes to the calculated amount of print data.

2. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 1, wherein when transfer of the print data is stopped until the recording material is temporarily stopped or during a period in which the recording material is temporarily stopped, the recording material is reused.

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3. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 1, wherein the process for working the recording material is a process of positioning the recording material at a predetermined position and of forming at least one punch hole on the recording material.

4. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 2, wherein the process for working the recording material is a process of positioning the recording material at a predetermined position and of forming at least one punch hole on the recording material.

5. (currently amended): A device for controlling conveying of a recording material, comprising:

a transfer section for transferring print data;

a conveying section which starts conveying of ~~a~~the recording material, based on start of transfer of print data by said transfer section, and conveys the recording material to a predetermined recording stage;

a stop-control section for temporarily stopping conveying of the recording material when a predetermined amount of print data is not received at a position, at which the recording material can be positioned at the recording stage in a predetermined time, midway in a conveying path of said conveying section;

a determination section which determines whether a remaining amount of print data transferred from said transfer section comes to an amount of print data which can be transferred in the predetermined time based on a transfer rate of the print data;

a release section which releases temporarily stopping conveying of the recording material by said stop-control section when the remaining amount of print data and the amount of print data which can be transferred in the predetermined time based on the transfer rate of the print data coincide with each other in said determination section; and a discharging section for discharging the recording material when transfer of print data from said transfer section is

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stopped before temporarily stopping conveying of the recording material by said stop-control section is released by said release section.

6. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined time is set based on ~~the~~a process for working the recording material, and the position at which the recording material is stopped by said stop-control section, is provided at a position in which position the recording material is located before the process for working the recording material is carried out.

7. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 6, wherein the process for working the recording material is a process of positioning the recording material at a predetermined position and of forming at least one punch hole on the recording material.

8. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 5, wherein the recording material is a printing plate having a photosensitive layer on a support, and said device is applied to an automatic exposure apparatus for printing plates, in which a printing plate is passed onto a surface table while being conveyed in a predetermined direction, and located at a regular position on the surface table, and thereafter, positioning punch holes used when the printing plate is wound around a print drum at a predetermined position, are formed on the printing plate, and the printing plate is moved to a recording stage by moving the surface table, and an image is recorded on the printing plate based on the print data.

9. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 6, wherein the recording material is a printing plate having a photosensitive layer on a support, and said device is applied to an automatic exposure apparatus for printing plates, in which a printing plate is passed onto a surface table while being conveyed

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in a predetermined direction, and located at a regular position on the surface table, and thereafter, positioning punch holes used when the printing plate is wound around a print drum at a predetermined position, are formed on the printing plate, and the printing plate is moved to a recording stage by moving the surface table, and an image is recorded on the printing plate based on the print data.

10. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 7, wherein the recording material is a printing plate having a photosensitive layer on a support, and said device is applied to an automatic exposure apparatus for printing plates, in which a printing plate is passed onto a surface table while being conveyed in a predetermined direction, and located at a regular position on the surface table, and thereafter, positioning punch holes used when the printing plate is wound around a print drum at a predetermined position, are formed on the printing plate, and the printing plate is moved to a recording stage by moving the surface table, and an image is recorded on the printing plate based on the print data.

11. (currently amended): A method of conveying a recording material, in which ~~a~~the recording material is conveyed to an image recording position in an image recording apparatus in which an image is recorded on the recording material based on print data transferred at a predetermined transfer rate, said method comprising the steps of:

starting transfer of the print data and conveying of the recording material;

temporarily stopping conveying of the recording material at a predetermined position in a conveying path of the recording material;

calculating, based on the predetermined transfer rate, an amount of print data which can be transferred in a time required for which the recording material is conveyed from the predetermined position at which the recording material is temporarily stopped, to the image recording position; and

restarting conveying of the recording material when an amount of the print data which

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has not been transferred, and the calculated amount of print data coincide with each other.

12. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined position is related to a region in which predetermined processing is effected for the recording material.

13. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 11, wherein when transfer of the print data is stopped until conveying of the recording material is temporarily stopped or during a period in which the recording material is temporarily stopped, the predetermined processing effected for the recording material is cancelled.

14. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 12, wherein the predetermined processing effected for the recording material is formation of at least one punch hole on the recording material.

15. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 11, wherein a time at which the recording material arrives at the image recording position is substantially concurrent with a time at which transfer of the print data is completed.

16. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of conveying a recording material according to claim 11, wherein a time at which the image can be recorded on the recording material at the image recording position, is substantially concurrent with a time at which transfer of the print data is completed.

17. (currently amended): A device for controlling conveying of a recording material, comprising:

a transfer section for transferring print data at a predetermined transfer rate;[:]

a conveying section for conveying ~~a~~the recording material to an image recording

position;

a stop-control section which temporarily stops conveying of the recording material at a predetermined position midway in a conveying path of said conveying section;

a determination section which makes a determination as to whether an amount of print data which has not been transferred among the print data transferred from said transfer section, coincides with an amount of print data which can be transferred in a time required for which the recording material is conveyed from the predetermined position at which the recording material is temporarily stopped, to the image recording position, which time is based on the predetermined transfer rate; and

a release section which releases the temporary ~~stop~~stopping of the recording material by said stop-control section when the amount of the print data which has not been transferred, and the amount of print data which can be transferred, coincide with each other in said determination section.

18. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 17, further comprising a discharging section which discharges the recording material when transfer of print data from said transfer section is stopped.

19. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 17, wherein the predetermined position at which the recording material is temporarily stopped by said stop-control section, is related to a region in which predetermined processing is effected for the recording material.

20. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording material according to claim 19, wherein the predetermined processing effected for the recording material is formation of at least one punch hole on the recording material.

21. (currently amended): ~~A~~The device for controlling conveying of a recording

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material according to claim 17, wherein the recording material is a printing plate having a photosensitive layer on a support, and positioning punch holes used when the printing plate is wound around a print drum, are formed in the printing plate, and the image is recorded on the printing plate based on the print data.